

# Adult Education

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## Mission

To provide Indiana's adult population with "learner-centered opportunities" to achieve basic and secondary level academic and life skills that help assure the state's continued economic growth and strength in the global marketplace.

## Summary of Activities

Adult education funds support many activities outside of traditional school settings for adults who are at least 16 years of age, not enrolled in school, and who lack a secondary credential or equivalent skills. The state is served by 43 comprehensive programs that provide a wide range of services and are supported by local, state, and federal funds. The comprehensive programs are administered by the **Department of Education (DOE)**, local school corporations, **Vincennes University**, and the **Department of Correction (DOC)**. A total of 80 school corporations receive state funding for their communities. Adult education also collaborates with community colleges, state and local workforce development offices, faith based programs, business and industry, and local correctional facilities. Adult basic and secondary education programs include literacy, English as a second language (ESL), GED preparation, secondary credit completion, and academic upgrading.

The Adult Basic Education program addresses the needs of adult learners from the non-reader to the secondary level student (GED preparation). The funds also support adult students who need additional classes to earn a high school diploma. Students who must pass the Graduation Qualifying Examination (GQE) receive assistance as well. The Even Start program addresses the specific needs of low-income families by implementing early-childhood education, adult education and adult literacy, as well as parenting education. There are 21 local Even Start programs that receive federal, local and limited state funding.

## External Factors

One significant external factor is the state unemployment rate. In general, as the unemployment rate decreases, the number of students enrolled in adult education classes typically decreases. Conversely, as the unemployment rate increases, a rise in adult education course enrollment is seen. The state adult education enrollment has increased 8 percent in five years. In the 2001-02 program year, the most recent year for which final figures are available, nearly 40 percent of the enrollees were unemployed. More unemployed, low income, single parents enrolled in adult education than during the previous program year. More than 50 percent of the students served had less than a ninth grade skill level as measured by standardized assessment when they entered the program.

Adult education in Indiana has also been serving a higher percentage of younger individuals. Fifty-eight percent of the 2001-02 enrollees were 16 to 24 years of age. Thirty one percent of the students were 16 to 18 years old.

As the non-English speaking population increases, enrollment in English literacy instruction also increases. The portion of all adult education enrollees receiving English literacy instruction in 2001-02 was 20 percent, compared with 11 percent in the 1996-97 program year. Some employers are requesting assistance in helping their non-English speaking workers learn English. Through a federal incentive grant, an increasing number of programs are offering those services to employers.



## Evaluation and Accomplishments

Adult education continues to demonstrate that it is a diverse and successful system. In 2002, 8,791 adults received their GED, many of whom participated in state-supported adult education programs. The passing rate was 77.8 percent, the highest in five years. Nearly one in two of the 44,492 program participants improved their basic skills (by demonstrating a two-grade increase). Of those who had employment as a goal, 56 percent found jobs. Fifty-nine percent of the students received a job promotion by upgrading their skills while 54 percent continued their education at community colleges or enrolled in skill-based training programs. Fifty-three percent of adults enrolled in family literacy programs improved their skills. In addition, 91 percent of children of adults in family literacy programs increased their educational performance while 93 percent increased their level of literacy. Overall, for the third consecutive year, the adult education program met the state's performance measures negotiated with the U.S. Department of Education.



## Plans for the Biennium

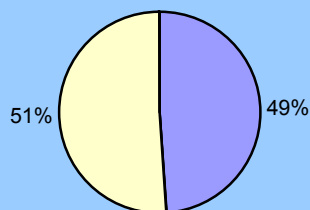
Adult education programs will support eligible adults in their roles as workers, parents, and citizens. Programs will focus on meeting the demand for adult education services in their communities, particularly those related to the workforce, and increasing student outcomes to achieve the state's performance measures under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.

*Program: 0030*

	<b>Actual FY 2001</b>	<b>Actual FY 2002</b>	<b>Estimate FY 2003</b>	<b>Appropriation FY 2004</b>	<b>Appropriation FY 2005</b>
<b>(All Funds)</b>	<b>\$26,630,671</b>	<b>\$30,193,132</b>	<b>\$33,120,960</b>	<b>\$30,878,259</b>	<b>\$30,878,259</b>

**Sources of Funds  
FY 2004 (Approp)**

General Dedicated Federal Other



**Uses of Funds  
FY 2004 (Approp)**

Personal Services Distributions Capital Other

